(घ) क्या यह भी सच है कि पर्यावरण और वन मंत्री ने खनिज उद्योग संघ, राजस्थान को उक्त अधिसूचना के उल्लंघन में छूट देने का आश्वासन दिया है, यदि हां तो उसके क्या कारण है और यदि नहीं, तो इस संबंध में उल्लंघन के क्या कारण हैं ?

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) 1991 की वन स्थिति रिपोर्ट के अनुसार वन आवरण में वृद्धि हुई है।

(ख) अवैध कब्जों, प्रभावी सुरक्षा के लिए अपेक्षित मूलभूत सुविधाओं की कमी जैसे विभिन्न कारणों से वन विनाश और वन भूमि में अवैध खनन के कुछ मामले ध्यान में आए हैं । इस तरह के अपराधों के लिए स्थानीय वन अधिकारियों द्वारा भारतीय वन अधिनियम, 1927 के अंतर्गत मामले दर्ज किए जाते है ।

(ग) यह सच नहीं है ।

(घ) राजस्थान खनिज उद्योग संघ को इस तरह का कोई आश्वासन नहीं दिया गया है । राजस्थान राज्य सरकार द्वारा दी गई रिपोर्ट के अनुसार वन क्षेत्रों में खनन या तो न्यायलय के निर्णय के आधार पर या खान विभाग द्वारा दी गई अनुमति के आधार पर की जा रही है।

गुजरात में आरक्षित वन-भूमि

1030. श्री रामसिंह राठवा : क्या **पर्यावरण और वन** मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) गुजरात में इस समय आरक्षित वन भूमि क्षेत्र कितना है ;

(ख) क्या यह सच है कि इस क्षेत्र की कई एकड भूमि पर गैर-कानूनी अधिभोगियों द्वारा कब्जा कर लिया गया है ;

(ग) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) इस भूमि पर से गैर-कानूनी अधिभोगियों को हटाने के लिए सरकार ने क्या-क्या कदम उठाए हैं ।

पर्यावरण और वन मंत्रालय के राज्यमंत्री (श्री कमल नाथ) : (क) से (घ) सूचना एकत्र की जा रही है और सदन के पटल पर रख दी जाएगी ।

Suggestions during Indo-German Economic Conference

1031. SHRI G. Y. KRISHNAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether during the Indo-German Economic Conference with the German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, the suggestion was made to set up a high level joint commission for scientific and technical cooperation, if so, the follow-up action being taken by Government in this behalf ;

(b) whether during the talks the German Chancellor also mooted the suggestion regarding India signing the NPT; and

(c) if so, Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) In his remarks to the Indo-German Business Conference on 3 February 1994, Chancellor Kohl announced that India and Germany have agreed to set up a high level joint mechanism for cooperation in this field of science and technology. Appropriate follow-up action in this regard will be taken by the concerned departments on both sides.

(b) No, Sir

(c) Does not arise.

Agreements with Switzerland and Germany and Singapore

1032. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY :
MISS SAROJ KHAPARDE :

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) What was the outcome of Prime Minister's visit to Davos, and Germany and

the visit of Singapore's Prime Minister to this country recently; and

(b) the details of agreements, if any, signed by India with those countries?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) The information is as under :

DAVOS

Prime Minister's address to the World Economic Forum at its closing session in Davos, and his various meetings with leading business, media and other personalities there forcefully projected India's political, economic and social priorities. This was highly appreciated by the influential audience gathered at Davos.

GERMANY

Prime Minister's visit to Germany helped to impart a fresh impetus to bilateral co-operation between India and Germany in the political, economic and cultural fields and in science and technology.

In the margins of Prime Minister's visit an agreement was concluded between the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) and Fraunhofer Gesellschaft on February 3, 1994 for cooperation in the process of developing applied research on a commercial basis.

SINGAPORE

The visit of the Singapore Prime Minister to India has led to further strengthening and diversification of bilateral relations. It has also underlined the forging of strategic economic partnership, combining the strengths of the two countries.

During the visit, the following agreements were sigened :

(i) Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement.

(ii) Shipping Agreement.

(iii) MOU on Tourism Cooperation.

(iv) Agreement between private sectors of the two countries on strategic Framework for Economic Cooperation.

Killing of Indian Fisherman by Sri Lankan Navy

1033. SHRI S. MADHAVAN : Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether an Indian fisherman was shot dead by Shri Lankan Navy in January, 1994;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof ;

(c) what are the reasons that the Sri Lankan Navy continues to kill our fishermen in spite of a number of protests made by our Government;

(d) what are the reasons that Indian Navy or the Coast Guard are unable to protect our fishermen from the attacks of Sri Lankan Navy ;

(e) whether Government have taken steps to restore the traditional rights of Indian fishermen to fish and navigate in the historic waters between India and Sri Lanka as guaranteed under Indo-Sri Lankan Agreement of 1974; and

(f) On what basis the Sri Lankan navy objects the Indian fishermen entering Sri Lankan waters for fishing in spite of the provisions of 1974 agreement protecting the traditional rights of Indian fishermen ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI R. L. BHATIA) : (a) and (b) Government of India has received reports from Tamil Nadu Government that an Indian fisherman was shot dead by Sri Lankan Navy personnel on 16th January, 1994 when they intercepted an Indian fishing boat called 'Valarmathi'.

(c) and (d) we have expressed our concern and unhappiness to the Sri Lankan Government over the recent incident. The Sri Lankan Government while expressing understanding of our position has emphasised that Sri Lankan Naval Authorities have always sought to avoid the use of force against Indian fishermen. Discussions between the two Governments at senior levels including representatives of Sri Lankan Navy and Indian Navy/Coast Guard to devise effective measures to prevent such incidents in future continue.